

**Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1 and 9, as indicated below, wherein underlining indicates additions and strikethrough indicates deletions.

1. (Currently amended) A stirring stick for manipulating foodstuff in combination with a blender, the ~~stirring stick~~ combination comprising:

a blender base containing a motor;

a blender jar releasably attached to the base, the blender jar being open at a top end and closed at a bottom end;

a blade set drivingly connected to the motor, the blade set extending into the blender jar proximate the bottom end;

an elongate plunger having first and second ends, the plunger having a cavity extending between the first and second ends such that at least a portion of the plunger is generally trough-shaped, the cavity being open at least at the second end, forming an opening extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the plunger, the opening and cavity forming a continuous flow channel from the first end to the second end; and

a handle attached to the first end of the plunger, such that a user may move the stirring stick in one or more directions when the stirring stick is positioned in the blender.

2. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 1 further comprising a scoop attached to the second end of the plunger, the scoop being shaped to guide foodstuff into the cavity.

3. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 2 further comprising a plunger tip attached to the scoop, the plunger tip having a scraping edge.

4. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 1 wherein the handle has an opening which is in fluid communication with the cavity, such that foodstuff may enter the cavity through the opening.

5. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 1 wherein a top portion of the handle is generally semi-spherical in shape.
6. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 1 further comprising a collar disposed between the first end of the plunger and the handle, the collar having a diameter size which is substantially larger than a diameter of the plunger.
7. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 6 wherein the collar is generally disc-shaped.
8. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 6 wherein the collar is generally frustroconical.
9. (Currently amended) A blender for blending foodstuff comprising:
  - a base containing a motor;
  - a blender jar releasably attached to the base, the blender jar being open at a top end and closed at a bottom end;
  - a blade set drivingly connected to the motor, the blade set extending into the blender jar ~~from~~ proximate the bottom end;
  - a lid covering a substantial portion of the top end of the blender jar, the lid having an opening extending therethrough; and
  - a stirring stick extending through the opening in the lid and into the blender jar from the top end, wherein the stirring stick comprises:
    - an elongate plunger having first and second ends, the plunger having a cavity extending between the first and second ends such that at least a portion of the plunger is generally trough-shaped, the cavity being open at least at the second end, forming an opening extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the plunger, the opening and cavity forming a continuous flow channel from the first end to the second end; and
    - a handle attached to the first end of the plunger, such that a user may move the stirring stick in one or more directions when the stirring stick is positioned in the blender.

10. (Original) The blender of claim 9 wherein the stirring stick further comprises a scoop attached to the second end of the plunger, the scoop shaped to guide foodstuff into the cavity.
11. (Original) The blender of claim 10 where the stirring stick includes a plunger tip attached to the scoop, the plunger tip having a scraping edge.
12. (Original) The blender of claim 9 wherein the handle has an opening which is in fluid communication with the cavity, such that foodstuff may enter the cavity through the opening.
13. (Original) The blender of claim 9 wherein a top portion of the handle is generally semi-spherical in shape.
14. (Original) The blender of claim 9 wherein the stirring stick further comprises a collar disposed between the first end of the plunger and the handle, the collar having a diameter which is substantially larger than a diameter of the opening in the lid.
15. (Original) The blender of claim 14 wherein the collar is generally disc-shaped.
16. (Original) The stirring stick of claim 14 wherein the collar is generally frustroconical.